

# Charter Question Timeframe

Information is subject to change based on actions of the Minnesota Legislature, current rulemaking and the Minneapolis City Council. In all matters, Minnesota Election Law or Minneapolis Charter is the final authority, not this calendar.

## 2012 Charter Question Timeframe

There are three available methods to place a City Charter question on the ballot. This timeframe incorporates all three methods:

- Citizen-initiated petition process
- Charter Commission recommendation to the City Council
- City Council recommendation

## Meeting Schedule

These regularly scheduled meeting dates do not preclude the Charter Commission, the City Council Committee of the Whole/Intergovernmental Relations or the City Council from scheduling special meetings.

Calendar for a proposed City Charter question on the 2012 General Election Ballot	
May 6, 2012	Earliest date to submit a petition to place a City Charter question on the November General Election ballot <a href="#">M.S.410.10 Subd.1</a> – within six months of submission
June 6, 2012	Last regularly scheduled Charter Commission meeting for the Charter Commission to recommend Charter changes for referral to the City Council Committee of the Whole/ Intergovernmental Relations
July 10, 2012	State law prohibits any City Charter question from being submitted for the November General Election ballot after this date <a href="#">M.S. 410.12 Subd. 1</a>
August 1, 2012	Last regularly scheduled Charter Commission meeting for referral of a successful Charter Petition (originally submitted by July 10) to the City Council

	Committee of the Whole/ Intergovernmental Relations
August 16, 2012	Last regularly scheduled City Council Committee of the Whole/Intergovernmental Relations meetings to approve ballot language before statutory deadline to propose charter amendments
August 17, 2012	Last regularly scheduled City Council meeting to approve ballot language before statutory deadline to propose charter amendments.  If under Council Rule 4, the Council approves a motion finding that the regular timeline is inadequate, the Council can hear the item at that Council meeting.
August 24, 2012	Last day for municipal clerk to provide ballot language to county auditor <a href="#">M.S.205.16 Subd. 4</a> – 74 days prior to the General Election
November 6, 2012	General Election

**Requirement for number of signatures on a Citizen Petition** [M.S.410.12 Subd.1](#)

State Law requires signatures from at least 5 percent of total votes cast at the previous State General Election. At the last State General Election held November 2, 2010, the number of Minneapolis residents who voted was 140,363. Signatures of at least 7,019 registered Minneapolis voters is required to submit a citizen petition.

**Verification for a Citizen Petition can take up to 25 days**

[M.S.410.12 Subd.3](#)

- The Minneapolis Elections Office has ten (10) days to verify initial submission of signatures.
- Petitioners have ten (10) more days to obtain additional signatures if needed.
- The Minneapolis Elections Office has five (5) additional days to verify additional signatures.

Any citizen or group of citizens may prepare an amendment, in proper legal form, to circulate for registered voters' signatures. ***Note: Citizens should seek legal guidance to ensure their efforts are in compliance with the law.***